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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers—Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry.

After a tense showdown with Hydra in Japan, Spider-Woman captures Madame Hydra by herself, but the capture is nothing more than a ruse. Jessica Drew is betraying both the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by selling her services to Hydra and another mystery faction.

When Spider-Woman allows Madame Hydra to escape from a moving Quinjet over open seas, Captain America is almost killed. Spider-Woman saves him from a watery grave, but Cap puts two and two together and confronts Jessica about her crooked alliances.

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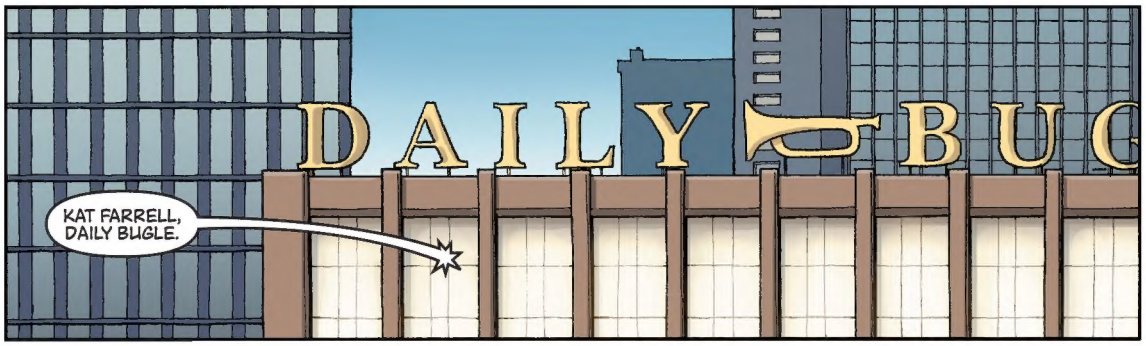

DAILY BUGLE
KAT FARRELL, DAILY BUGLE.

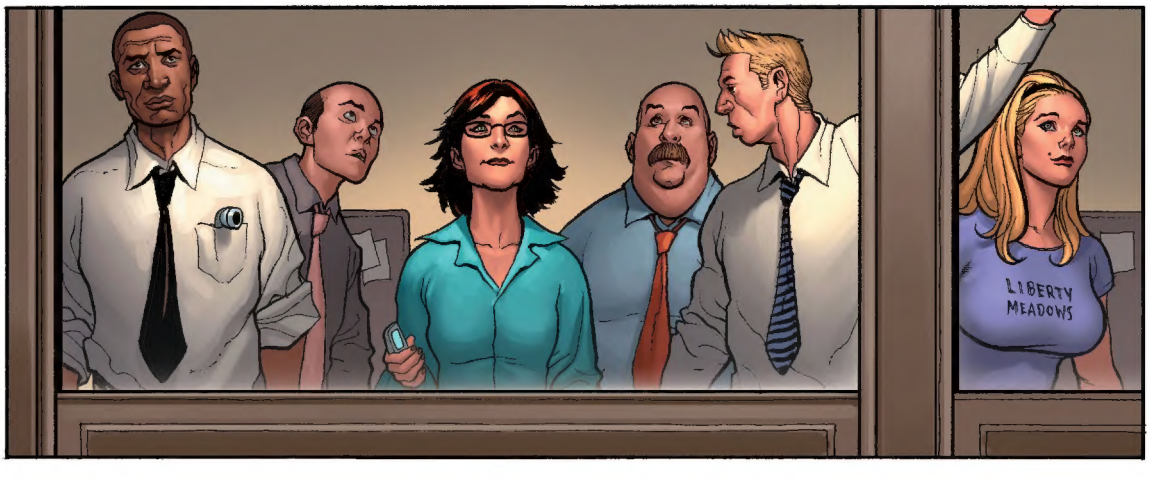
HI, MOM.
NO, MOM. WHAT?
NO.
MOM, STOP.
STOP.
I'M AT WORK.
SPIDER-MAN HERO

YES.
YOU JUST CALLED ME HERE. YOU JUST--MOM, UNLESS YOU HAVE A NEWSBREAKING STORY, I HAVE TO GO.
BECAUSE I HAVE NO STORY.
I'M A REPORTER WITHOUT A STORY.
AGAIN.

I NEED--WHAT? OUT WHAT WINDOW? YOUR WINDOW?
WHAT?
(THE WOMAN'S INSANE.)
RIGHT NOW? IT LIT UP? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN: A BUILDING LIT UP?
MOM, IT'S FIREWORKS.

I'M LOOKING! I'M GOING TO LOOK.
BUT BUILDINGS DON'T JUST LIGHT...
MCENROGGIN DESTROYS OHIO

...UP.


LIBERTY
MEADOWS

JESSICA?
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION...
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
COME ON, CAP...
JUST--
IS--
IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN--
CAN I JUST ASK YOU TO *TRUST* ME?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
WHAT DOES MADAME HYDRA HAVE OVER YOU?
SHE'S *PART* OF IT.
WHO?

THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T FAIR TO YOU, CAPTAIN.
HOW SO?
MY GENETICS-- I'M PELTING YOU WITH PHEROMONES. I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'M NERVOUS, AND I'M PELTING YOU WITH PHEROMONES THAT CHEMICALLY ATTRACT YOU TO ME.
I'LL TRY TO CONTROL MYSELF.
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?
A WHILE.
BACK UP AND TELL ME EVERYTHING.
DON'T SIT THERE AND TRY TO THINK OF A *LIE* TO TELL ME, AGENT DREW!
I'M NOT. *HEY!* OKAY?
I'M TRYING TO IMAGINE A SCENARIO IN WHICH I TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING SO THAT I DON'T SOMEHOW END UP *DEAD* AFTERWARDS.
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
WELL, I KNOW *THAT.*
BUT TRUST ME, *YOU'VE* DONE PLENTY ALREADY.
WHAT DID *I* DO?
YOU MADE ME AN AVENGER.
ONCE UPON A TIME...

I USED TO BE A SUPER HERO.

YOU READ MY FILE, RIGHT? YOU KNOW MY HISTORY.

I *HAD* THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT MAKES A GOOD SUPER HERO: A COMPLETELY SCREWED UP CHILDHOOD.

I MEAN, HEY, MY DAD, MY GOD-AWFUL FATHER, IS THE ONE THAT POKED AT MY GENETICS AND GAVE ME MY QUOTE/UNQUOTE POWERS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND WHAT DO I DO THEN? I GO RUNNING INTO THE HANDS OF HYDRA. A HYDRA AGENT AT 17.

SO THANK GOD FOR NICK FURY.

HE SAW THROUGH ALL MY CRAZINESS THAT I WAS JUST SOME SCREWED-UP TEENAGER.

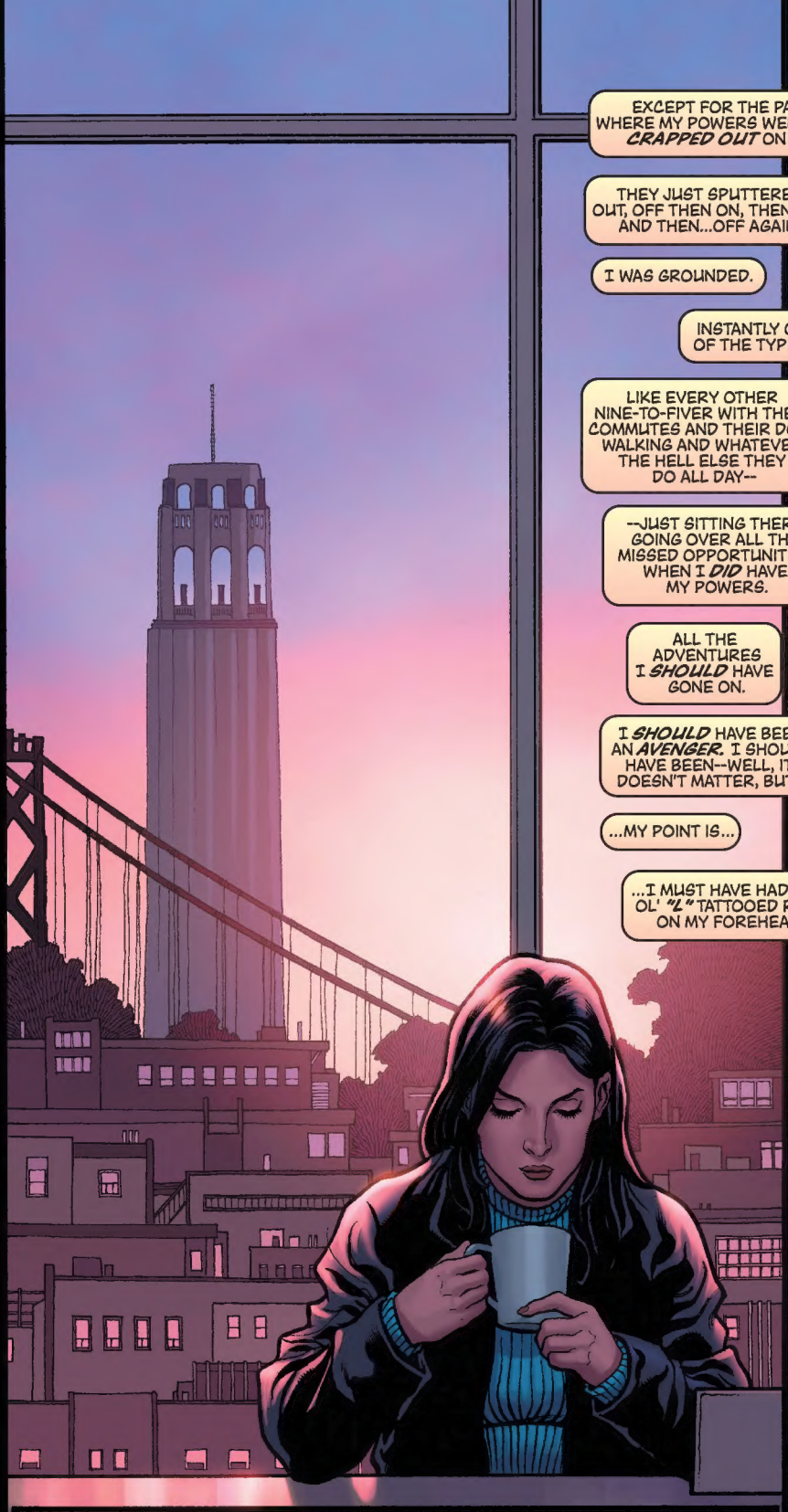
BECAUSE OF *HIM* I WENT FROM AGENT OF HYDRA TO AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THEN HE EVENTUALLY LED ME INTO A NORMAL LIFE.

WELL...AS NORMAL A LIFE AS YOU CAN IN A COSTUME AND WITH FRICKIN' MORGAN LE FEY UP YOUR NOSE...

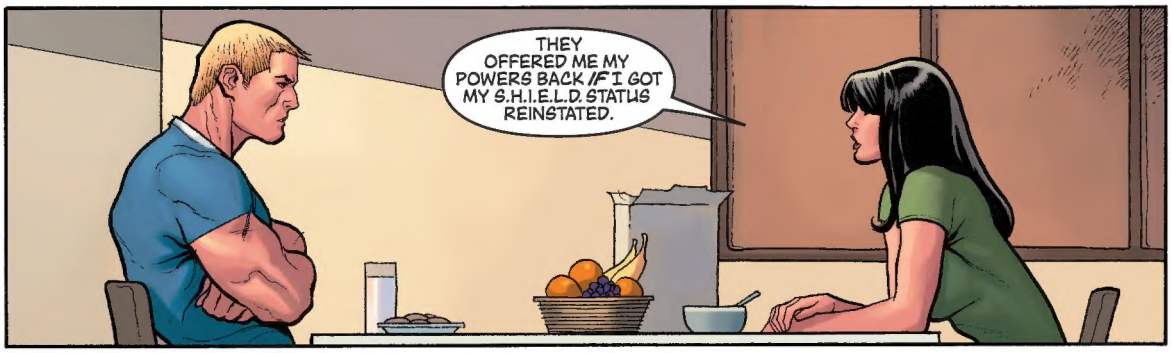
BUT AS CRAZY AS IT WAS--AND IT WAS TEN LIVES OF CRAZINESS IN ONE--

LOOKING BACK--I WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED A SECOND.

OF ANY OF IT.

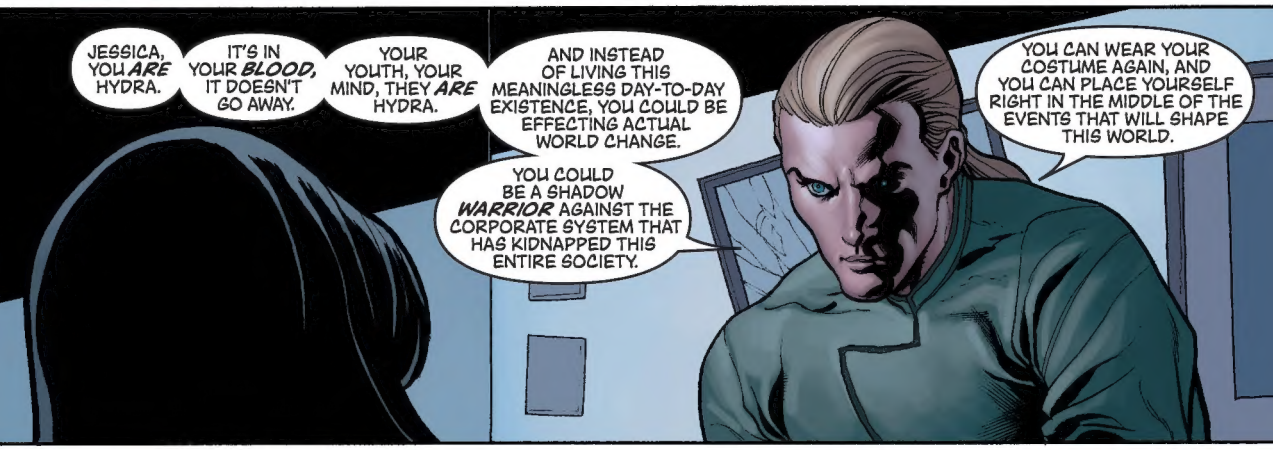

EXCEPT FOR THE PART WHERE MY POWERS WENT AND *CRAPPED OUT* ON ME.
THEY JUST SPUTTERED OUT, OFF THEN ON, THEN OFF AND THEN...OFF AGAIN.
I WAS GROUNDED.
INSTANTLY ONE OF THE TYPICAL.
LIKE EVERY OTHER NINE-TO-FIVER WITH THEIR COMMUTES AND THEIR DOG-WALKING AND WHATEVER THE HELL ELSE THEY DO ALL DAY--
--JUST SITTING THERE GOING OVER ALL THE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES WHEN I *DID* HAVE MY POWERS.
ALL THE ADVENTURES I *SHOULD* HAVE GONE ON.
I *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN AN *AVENGER.* I SHOULD HAVE BEEN--WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER, BUT...
...MY POINT IS...
...I MUST HAVE HAD A BIG 'OL' *"L"* TATTOOED RIGHT ON MY FOREHEAD--

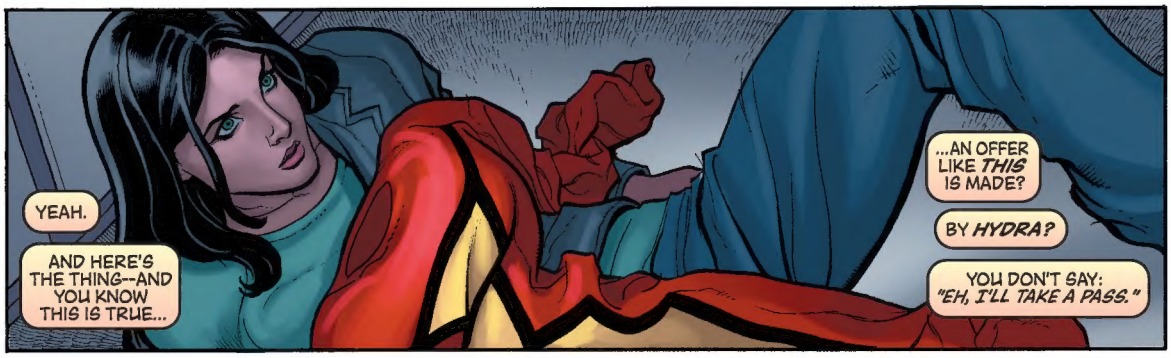
BECAUSE HYDRA, OR I SHOULD SAY, ONE OF THEM, CAME LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN.
BARGED RIGHT INTO MY HOUSE, SMACKED ME AROUND TO PROVE A POINT, AND THEN...
MY NAME IS CONNELY.
I'M A FAN.
OF THE OLD YOU.
AND I THINK YOU MORE THAN DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.
YOU DESERVE YOUR POWERS, AND YOU DESERVE THIS COSTUME AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU DESERVE A PURPOSE AND A DIRECTION.
MEANING.
AND I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU ALL OF THIS.
I CAN GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK AND GIVE YOUR LIFE PURPOSE.
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SEE, WELL, THERE'S THE RUB...

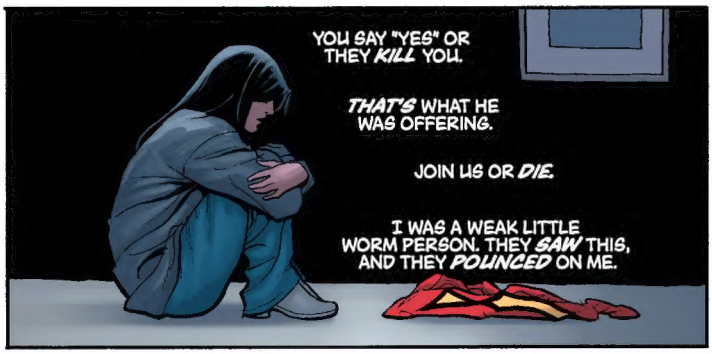

THEY OFFERED ME MY POWERS BACK *IF* I GOT MY S.H.I.E.L.D. STATUS REINSTATED.

DOUBLE AGENT.

YEAH.


JESSICA, YOU *ARE* HYDRA.
IT'S IN YOUR *BLOOD*, IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.
YOUR YOUTH, YOUR MIND, THEY *ARE* HYDRA.
AND INSTEAD OF LIVING THIS MEANINGLESS DAY-TO-DAY EXISTENCE, YOU COULD BE EFFECTING ACTUAL WORLD CHANGE.
YOU COULD BE A SHADOW *WARRIOR* AGAINST THE CORPORATE SYSTEM THAT HAS KIDNAPPED THIS ENTIRE SOCIETY.
YOU CAN WEAR YOUR COSTUME AGAIN, AND YOU CAN PLACE YOURSELF RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EVENTS THAT WILL SHAPE THIS WORLD.


YEAH.
AND HERE'S THE THING--AND YOU KNOW THIS IS TRUE...
...AN OFFER LIKE *THIS* IS MADE?
BY *HYDRA?*
YOU DON'T SAY: *"EH, I'LL TAKE A PASS."*

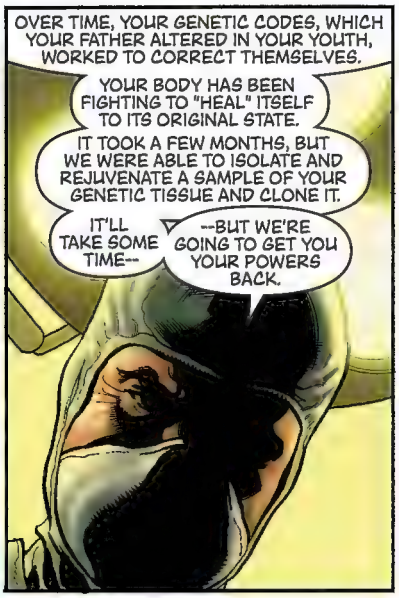

YOU SAY "YES" OR THEY *KILL* YOU.
THAT'S WHAT HE WAS OFFERING.
JOIN US OR *DIE.*
I WAS A WEAK LITTLE WORM PERSON. THEY *SAW* THIS, AND THEY *POUNCED* ON ME.

THEY WANTED ME TO CALL FURY AND GET REINSTATED.
I HAD NO CHOICE.
I HAD TO CALL HIM.
JACKPOT RECORDS.
I NEED TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER.

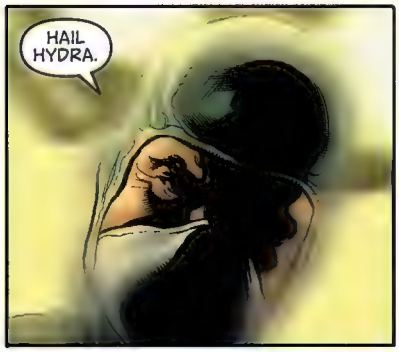
DO IT.
WHAT?!
DO IT. GET YOUR POWERS BACK.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR--?
I'LL PUT YOU TO WORK.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO FEED THEM. AND YOU'LL FEED US WHAT THEY TELL YOU.
UGH!
THIS IS GOOD. YEAH.
GOOD? THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU EITHER WAY. NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
THEY TARGETED YOU.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE MEANTIME.
THEY'RE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW.
GOOD. WE WANT THEM TO. NOW THEY KNOW YOU CAME TO ME.
BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR US. MY HIGH-TECH DOOHICKEY BEATS THEIR HIGH-TECH DOOHICKEY.
I WANNA SCREAM.
GO AHEAD. THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HERE'S HOW IT'LL WORK...

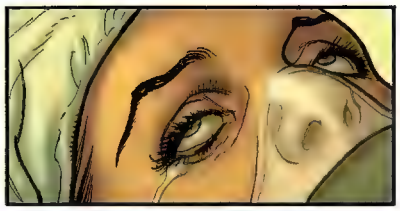
I'LL FEED YOU STUFF TO GIVE THEM, JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND FOR THEM NOT TO GET SUSPICIOUS.
AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, WHEN WE'VE PUSHED IT AS FAR AS WE CAN--
--WE'LL SQUASH THE ENTIRE CELL.
WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL IN ONE SWOOP.
AND I GET YOU BACK AS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
WHERE YOU BELONG, BY THE WAY.
UGH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO OFFER ME PLASTIC SURGERY AND A TICKET TO ALASKA.
(SMILE, THEY'RE WATCHING.)
REMEMBER WHEN I RESCUED YOU FROM THE CLUTCHES OF HYDRA AND YOU TOLD ME YOU'D REPAY ME ONE DAY?
WELL, IT'S GOOD YOU'RE NOT HOLDING IT OVER MY HEAD.
LISTEN TO ME-- NO ONE WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS BUT ME AND YOU.
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. NO ONE.
THE ONLY WAY YOU STAY SAFE IS THAT THERE ARE NO WEAK LINKS. OKAY?
NO ONE WILL KNOW.
BUT, HEY... LEAST YA GET YOUR POWERS BACK.
DID THEY HAPPEN TO TELL YOU HOW THEY'RE GONNA DO THAT?

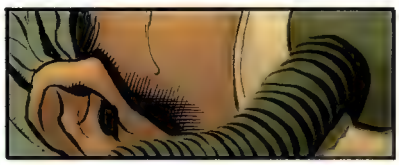
JESSICA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

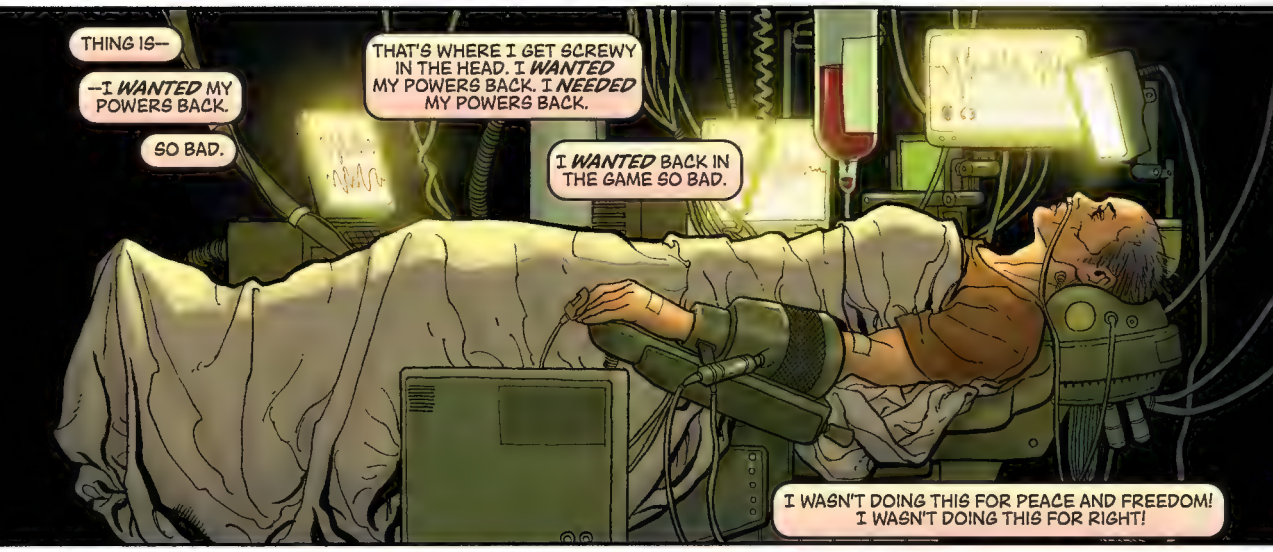

OVER TIME, YOUR GENETIC CODES, WHICH YOUR FATHER ALTERED IN YOUR YOUTH, WORKED TO CORRECT THEMSELVES.
YOUR BODY HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO "HEAL" ITSELF TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.
IT TOOK A FEW MONTHS, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO ISOLATE AND REJUVENATE A SAMPLE OF YOUR GENETIC TISSUE AND CLONE IT.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME---
--BUT WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK.

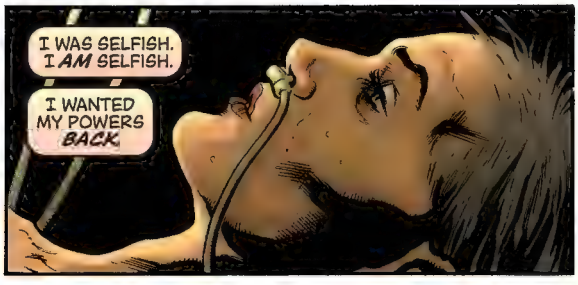
I MUST TELL YOU, JESSICA...
...YOUR FATHER WAS *DECADES* AHEAD OF HIS TIME.
YOU ARE AN INSPIRED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT.
YOU SHOULD BE OH SO PROUD.


HAIL HYDRA.

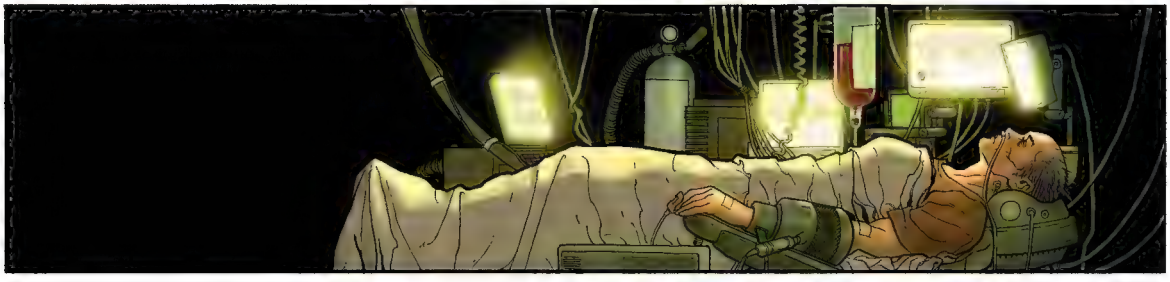




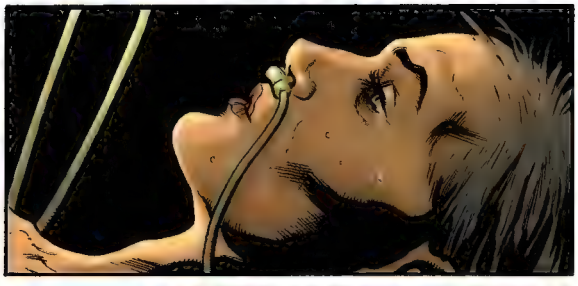

THING IS--
--I WANTED MY POWERS BACK.
SO BAD.
THAT'S WHERE I GET SCREWY IN THE HEAD. I WANTED MY POWERS BACK. I NEEDED MY POWERS BACK.
I WANTED BACK IN THE GAME SO BAD.
I WASN'T DOING THIS FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM! I WASN'T DOING THIS FOR RIGHT!


I WAS SELFISH. I AM SELFISH.
I WANTED MY POWERS BACK.

HOW LONG DID THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

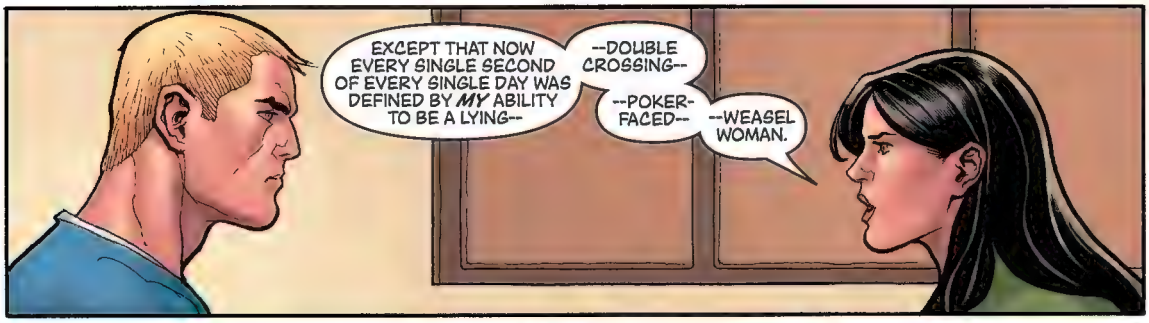


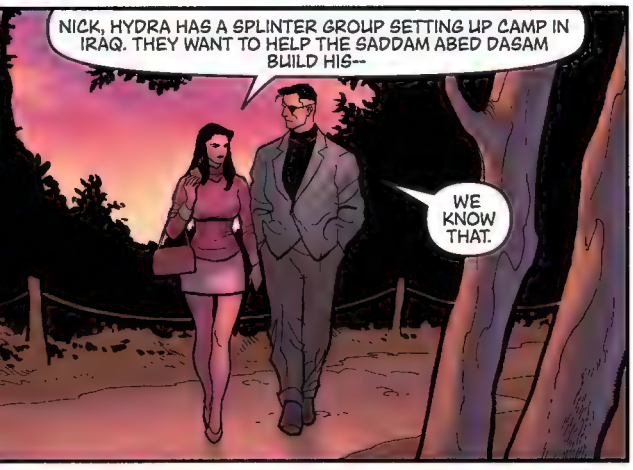
SEVENTEEN MONTHS.
GIVE OR TAKE.



BUT WHEN IT WAS OVER...

...OH, I GOT MY POWERS BACK...
AND *THEN* SOME.
EVERY *PART* OF ME WAS BETTER THAN IT WAS BEFORE. EVERY PART.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
I CAN FLY.
NOT GLIDE, FLY.
I WAS *BACK!*


EXCEPT THAT NOW EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF EVERY SINGLE DAY WAS DEFINED BY *MY* ABILITY TO BE A LYING--
--DOUBLE CROSSING--
--POKER-FACED--
--WEASEL WOMAN.


NICK, HYDRA HAS A SPLINTER GROUP SETTING UP CAMP IN IRAQ. THEY WANT TO HELP THE SADDAM ABED DASAM BUILD HIS--
WE KNOW THAT.

NOW I HEARD THIS THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, BUT...
...HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD OF A S.H.I.E.L.D. DEFENSE INITIATIVE CALLED THE GOD'S EYE?

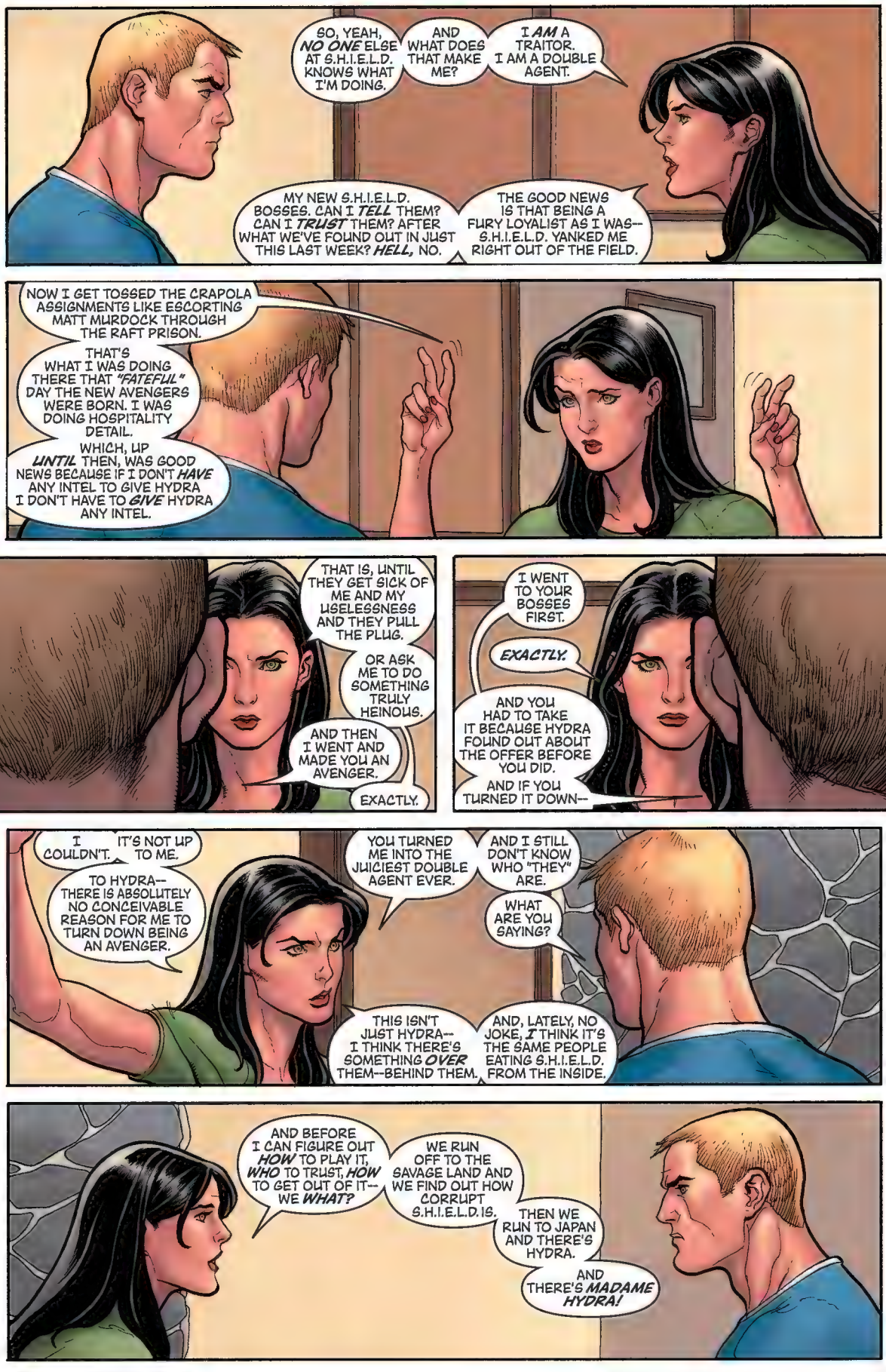
HE HAS THE SCORPIO KEY.
THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.

KEEP TALKING.
WHAT DOES THIS CATERPILLAR FILE CONTAIN?

AND JUST WHEN I STOPPED CRYING MYSELF TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT...
(NO JOKE.)
WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY STARTING TO GET *USED* TO THE FEELING OF NOT KNOWING WHAT SIDE OF MY MOUTH I WAS TALKING OUT OF AND DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP TRACK OF THE MINUTE DETAILS OF ALL MY LIES...

THEN YOU GUYS WENT AND HAD YOUR DAMN SECRET WAR.

IT'S ME. LISTEN.
I'M GOING OFF GRID TONIGHT. MAYBE FOR GOOD.
WHAT?
I MADE A SERIOUS TACTICAL ERROR A YEAR AGO IN LATVERIA, AND IT'S COME BACK TO BITE ME ON THE DUGAN.
YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR A LOTTA CRAP ABOUT ME IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. MOST OF IT'S TRUE.
I'M SORRY, JESS.
IT'S THE END OF THE LINE.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
YOU'LL HEAR IT ALL SOON ENOUGH. BUT I'VE MADE ENEMIES OUTTA JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY.
I'M GOING UNDERGROUND.
WHAT DO I DO?
WELL, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO ASK YOU TO FIND ME AND KILL ME. GUESS IT'S UP TO YOU WHAT YOU DO.
I KNOW THIS STINKS ABOUT AS BAD AS IT CAN.
I WOULD'A NEVER DONE THIS TO YOU ON PURPOSE. YOU KNOW THAT.
NICK?
NICK?!


SO, YEAH, NO ONE ELSE AT S.H.I.E.L.D. KNOWS WHAT I'M DOING.
AND WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?
I AM A TRAITOR. I AM A DOUBLE AGENT.
MY NEW S.H.I.E.L.D. BOSSES. CAN I TELL THEM? CAN I TRUST THEM? AFTER WHAT WE'VE FOUND OUT IN JUST THIS LAST WEEK? HELL, NO.
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT BEING A FURY LOYALIST AS I WAS-- S.H.I.E.L.D. YANKED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE FIELD.
NOW I GET TOSSED THE CRAPOLA ASSIGNMENTS LIKE ESCORTING MATT MURDOCK THROUGH THE RAFT PRISON.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING THERE THAT "FATEFUL" DAY THE NEW AVENGERS WERE BORN. I WAS DOING HOSPITALITY DETAIL.
WHICH, UP UNTIL THEN, WAS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE IF I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEL TO GIVE HYDRA I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE HYDRA ANY INTEL.
THAT IS, UNTIL THEY GET SICK OF ME AND MY USELESSNESS AND THEY PULL THE PLUG.
OR ASK ME TO DO SOMETHING TRULY HEINOUS.
AND THEN I WENT AND MADE YOU AN AVENGER.
EXACTLY.
I WENT TO YOUR BOSSES FIRST.
EXACTLY.
AND YOU HAD TO TAKE IT BECAUSE HYDRA FOUND OUT ABOUT THE OFFER BEFORE YOU DID.
AND IF YOU TURNED IT DOWN--
I COULDN'T. IT'S NOT UP TO ME.
TO HYDRA-- THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEIVABLE REASON FOR ME TO TURN DOWN BEING AN AVENGER.
YOU TURNED ME INTO THE JUICIEST DOUBLE AGENT EVER.
AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO "THEY" ARE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THIS ISN'T JUST HYDRA-- I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING OVER THEM--BEHIND THEM.
AND, LATELY, NO JOKE, I THINK IT'S THE SAME PEOPLE EATING S.H.I.E.L.D. FROM THE INSIDE.
AND BEFORE I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO PLAY IT, WHO TO TRUST, HOW TO GET OUT OF IT-- WE WHAT?
WE RUN OFF TO THE SAVAGE LAND AND WE FIND OUT HOW CORRUPT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS.
THEN WE RUN TO JAPAN AND THERE'S HYDRA.
AND THERE'S MADAME HYDRA!

AND I *HAD* HER.
AND--AND I *HAD* TO LET HER GO.
AND THERE IT IS. THAT THING.
THAT SOMETHING I *ABSOLUTELY* SHOULD NOT, COULD NOT, EVER DO.
SOMETHING I WOULD *NEVER* DO. LET *HER* GO.
...CAN YOU IMAGINE?
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT AT THIS POINT--ARRESTING *HER* IS LIKE ARRESTING THE KID DEALING ON THE PLAYGROUND--IT DOESN'T REALLY STOP *ANYTHING.*
AND I ALMOST *KILLED* YOU.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
I ALMOST GET CAPTAIN AMERICA KILLED OVER ALL THIS.
I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO KILL *MYSELF* IF THAT HAPPENED--YOU *KNOW* THAT.
WHERE'S NICK FURY?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU GUYS BELIEVE HER?

SHE DON'T STINK LIKE SHE'S LYIN', BUT SHE *IS* AN AGENT.
THEY TRAIN THEM TO HOLD IT TOGETHER IN JUST THIS TYPE'A SITUATION.

HER HEART AND BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS ARE NORMAL.

I BELIEVE HER.
HEY, IF FURY SCREWED YOU OVER LIKE THAT--WELL, JOIN THE CLUB.
WE HAVE SHIRTS.
I'LL GO WITH THE GROUP.
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY.

I'VE KNOWN JESS HERE A LO-O-ONG TIME.
YEAH.
FOUGHT ALONGSIDE HER. WE GOT HISTORY.
YES WE DO.
I THINK SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
THANK YOU.
NOW TELL US THE REST.

WHAT REST?
YOU KNOW WHERE FURY IS. YOU'RE STILL WORKING WITH HIM FROM UNDERGROUND.
I DON'T.
JESS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO MADAME HYDRA'S CRAP FOR TWO SECONDS UNLESS SOMETHING HUGE WERE--
NO, I--

JESSICA, YOU'RE AN AVENGER NOW. NO MORE SECRETS. NO MORE LIES.
YOU COULD HAVE *AVOIDED* WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT IF YOU WERE FORTHRIGHT WITH US TO *BEGIN* WITH.
WE'RE BOTH S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS, WE'RE BOTH AVENGERS--WE CAN FIGURE A WAY TO WORK THIS OUT.

GLEE GLEE

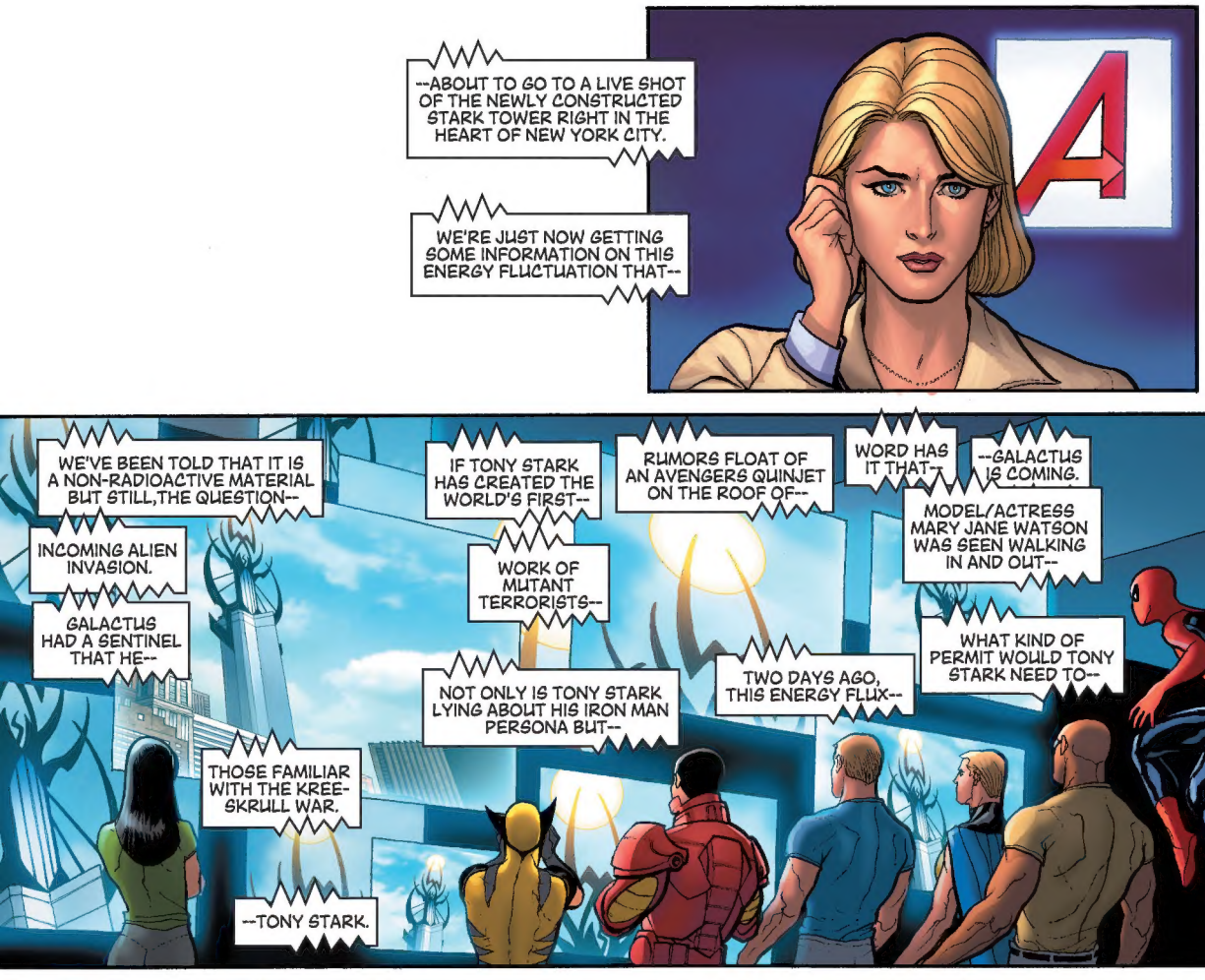
GLEE GLEE
GET YOUR PHONE.

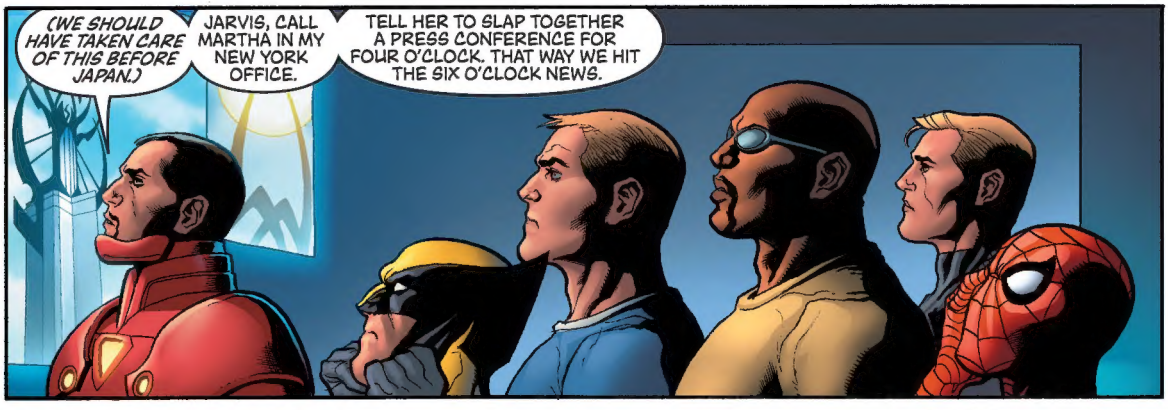
HI.
YEAH.
YOU SAID--YOU SAID NO ONE. OKAY.
YEAH...

IT'S FOR YOU.

COLONEL.

MORNING, AVENGERS.
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON JESSICA. SHE'S IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION, AND I PUT HER THERE.
I KNOW YA THINK I'M THE WORST OF THE BUNCH, BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON HER.
THERE'S A LOT TO DO AND WE WERE WORKING WITH A SERIOUS HANDICAP.
NOW, WITH YOU GUYS COOKIN' AGAIN, WE GOT A BASE WE CAN FIGHT BACK FROM.
WE WHO, YOU #$%@# @##$#@@?
YOU WERE LISTENING THE WHOLE TIME?
HE WAS.
SORRY.
WHERE ARE YOU, FURY?
WE'LL GET TO THAT. TODAY YOU GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.
LIKE WHAT?
TURN ON THE TUBE.
EH BOY. HERE WE GO.
AND SMILE.


--ABOUT TO GO TO A LIVE SHOT OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED STARK TOWER RIGHT IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY.
WE'RE JUST NOW GETTING SOME INFORMATION ON THIS ENERGY FLUCTUATION THAT--
WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT IT IS A NON-RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL BUT STILL,THE QUESTION--
INCOMING ALIEN INVASION.
GALACTUS HAD A SENTINEL THAT HE--
THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE KREE-SKRULL WAR.
--TONY STARK.
IF TONY STARK HAS CREATED THE WORLD'S FIRST--
WORK OF MUTANT TERRORISTS--
NOT ONLY IS TONY STARK LYING ABOUT HIS IRON MAN PERSONA BUT--
RUMORS FLOAT OF AN AVENGERS QUINJET ON THE ROOF OF--
TWO DAYS AGO, THIS ENERGY FLUX--
WORD HAS IT THAT--
--GALACTUS IS COMING.
MODEL/ACTRESS MARY JANE WATSON WAS SEEN WALKING IN AND OUT--
WHAT KIND OF PERMIT WOULD TONY STARK NEED TO--


(WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS BEFORE JAPAN.)
JARVIS, CALL MARTHA IN MY NEW YORK OFFICE.
TELL HER TO SLAP TOGETHER A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOUR O'CLOCK. THAT WAY WE HIT THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS.

TO BE CONTINUED...